

Duplicate

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Knoche

A late report this afternoon from [] SOC, confirms the fact that 9060 came to grief because of a short circuit in the first stage auto-pilot. The auto-pilot attempted to pull the nose down and the BTL guidance system tried to pull it up. Result: vehicle tumbling. [] also says there is no change in 9061 launch date from 27 Nov. He has added that 9062 is now programming for 14 Dec with the third J mission, Mission 1005, working against a 10-12 December launch date. If 1005 is successful 9062 will be moved back.

15/
James A. Cunningham, jr.
12 November 1963
(DATE)

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FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

NRO review(s) completed.

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12 NOV 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director

ATTENTION: Mr. Knoche

SUBJECT: Status of Satellite Reconnaissance Schedule
in the Light of Mission 9060 Failure

1. As we are all painfully aware Mission 9060, a CORONA/MURAL shot, was unsuccessfully launched from Vandenberg AFB on 7 November. Present indications are that the failure was sustained approximately 122 seconds after launch prior to the completion of firing time on the first stage of the mission, and, of course, before the second stage had a chance to ignite. This failure produced a tumbling mode which prevented proper attitude for injection and the vehicle impacted in the water some 300 miles to range.

2. In response to your question as to how soon a substitute system could be launched I have the following information from the Satellite Operations Center current as of 1100 hours this date:

a. Mission 9060 was itself an R-7 standby for Mission 1005, a CORONA/J launch, originally scheduled for launch on 15 November. Mission 1005 was canceled because of film transporting problems within the camera system.

b. Mission 9060 was originally programmed as an R-7 standby for the month of December. Following the cancellation of Mission 1005 and Mission 9064 (LANYARD) 9061 was hastily moved forward from roughly mid-December to launch on 27 November which was the earliest date it could be reprogrammed.

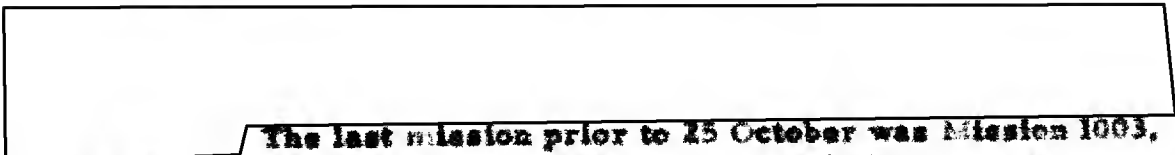
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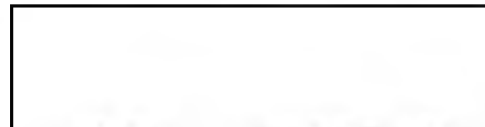
c. Attempts are now being made to accelerate the launch of Mission 9061 but even if successful it is not likely that the date can be stepped up more than a day or so. In addition, the DD/NRO states that time is needed to assess the mission for the failure in Mission 9060 since it was apparently a rather basic one in the hitherto reliable first stage mechanism.

d. Mission 9062, a CORONA/M shot, is presently carried on the schedule for launch on 12 December.



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The last mission prior to 25 October was Mission 1003, a CORONA/J, on 23 September, only the first half of which was recovered. I believe the present difficulty is attributable to the fact that the schedule furnished the Director covering the launches of 9060 and 9061 showed the latter vehicle as "backup for Mission 9060". This may well have led him to the assumption that the 27 November launch date was wholly tentative and that in event of a failure on 9060 that 9061 could be launched within the R-7 standby envelope. Unfortunately this was not the case. Additional reporting on Mission 9060 should be coming in today and tomorrow and we will keep you advised. In the meantime, we have registered in the strongest tones with DD/NRO the Director's general sense of dissatisfaction with the hiatus in the search and surveillance business.



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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

cc: DD/S&T

DAD/OSA/JACunningham, Jr:ph (12 Nov 63)

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